

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UN, UN

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON UN CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN LEFT PAPER WITH SECRETARY
(TEXT FOLLOWS) ON FEBRUARY 21 GIVING SOVIET VIEWS ON UN
CHARTER REVIEW EFFORT. DOBRYNIN INDICATED THAT SIMILAR
NOTES ARE BEING DELIVERED TO OTHER MEMBERS OF UN COMMITTEE,
WITH CONCLUDING PARAGRAPHS TAILORED TO SUIT RECIPIENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "VIEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION IN CONNECTION
WITH THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
THE UN CHARTER AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE ORGANI-
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ZATION - (NEW YORK, FEB. 27-MARCH 24, 1978)" THE SOVIET
UNION ATTACHES MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO THE ROLE OF THE UN IN
CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. THE CHARTER OF THIS
ORGANIZATION IN ITS CURRENT FORM IS RESPONSIVE TO THE
INTERESTS OF SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL
PEACE--THE MAJOR TASK FOR WHICH THE UN WAS FOUNDED. YT
(THE CHARTER) INSURES THE VIABILITY AND FUNCTIONING OF THE

UN IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD AND IN CONDITIONS OF THE EXISTENCE OF STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS. THE KEY PRINCIPLE OF THE CHARTER IS THE PRINCIPLE OF UNANIMITY OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WITHOUT WHICH THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE UN WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE.

THE MAJORITY OF STATES RECOGNIZE THAT STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE UN DEPENDS UPON STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER AND IMPLEMENTING THE USEFUL DECISIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND NOT FROM DESTROYING THE CHARTER OR ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE IT. AT THE SAME TIME, SOME COUNTRIES UNDER THE EXCUSE OF STRENGTHENING THE UN, AT "DEMOCRATIZING" IT, ARE TRYING TO SUBJECT THE CHARTER TO REVISION, WHICH INEVITABLY LEADS TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF THIS ORGANIZATION AND BRINGS WITH IT THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ORGANIZATION.

THE SOVIET UNION DECISIVELY OPPOSES THE REVISION OF THE UN CHARTER. THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE UN CAN BE EXPLAINED NOT BY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE CHARTER BUT BY THE ABSENCE ON THE PART OF SOME STATES OF THE POLITICAL WILL TO OBSERVE STRICTLY ITS PRINCIPLES. WE PROCEED FROM THE FIRM CONVICTION THAT INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UN SHOULD BE SOUGHT NOT THROUGH DESTROYING THE CHARTER BUT RATHER THROUGH FULLER USE OF THE POSSIBILITIES WHICH IT CONTAINS.

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PROPOSALS FOR REVISING THE CHARTER WILL CARRY STATES ON A FALSE PATH AND DISTRACT THEIR ATTENTION FROM THE REALLY CRITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE CURRENT DAY WITH WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS MUST BE INVOLVED. USING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE UN CHARTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING THE CHARTER CAN ONLY BRING INJURY TO THE UNITED NATIONS. IN THE VIEW OF THE SOVIET UNION THE ACTIVITY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MAKES SENSE ONLY IN THAT CASE WHERE IT CONCENTRATES ALL ITS ATTENTION ON INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK AND ON THE BASIS OF THE EXISTING CHARTER.

IT IS HOPED THAT THESE VIEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION CONCERNING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UN CHARTER WILL FIND UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE US GOVERNMENT.

IN THAT CONNECTION, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE FOUR PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (USSR, USA, ENGLAND AND FRANCE) WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND IS AIMED AGAINST EFFORTS TO REVISE THE CHARTER. WE COUNT ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COOPERATION.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS APPROACHED OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN THE SENSE EXPRESSED ABOVE. WE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL ALSO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THAT COMMITTEE. END TEXT.

3. FOR USUN, LONDON, PARIS, MOSCOW: IF THE SUBJECT OF THE SOVIET DEMARCHE COMES UP, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT, WHILE THE US LARGELY AGREES WITH SOVIET NOTE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE VERY CONSERVATIVE SOVIET VIEW SHOULD GOVERN US, UK AND FRENCH ATTITUDES. FOR OUR PART, WE PLAN TO PUT FORTH IN VARIOUS UN FORA, PERHAPS INCLUDING CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE, PROPOSALS FOR UN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFORM AND STRENGTHENING BASED ON PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS RESPONSIVE TO BAKER-MCGOVERN AMENDMENT. WE ARE OPEN TO OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGES IN UN PROCEDURES AND MECHANISMS. HOWEVER, WE REMAIN RESERVED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES WHICH "CHARTER REVIEW" PRESENTS FOR PROGRESS INsofar AS CHARTER AMENDMENT IS REQUIRED, AND WE OPPOSE ELIMINATION OR FUNDAMENTAL MODIFICATION OF THE VETO POWER.

VANCE

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